GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:147
ANSWERED ON:17.07.2017
Theft of Petrol/Diesel by Electronic Chips
Gogoi Shri Gaurav;Patil Shri A.T. (Nana);Scindia Shri Jyotiraditya Madhavrao;Verma Shri Rajesh

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the cases of theft of petrol/ diesel using electronic chips/hi-tech way of cheating in various petrol pumps have been noticed/reported during the last two years and the current year and if so, the details thereof along with names of the States where such theft cases have been reported, State/UT-wise;
(b) whether the Government has conducted any investigation/inquiry in this regard and if so, the details thereof along with number of individuals/petrol pumps owners found to be involved in such malpractices and action taken and surprise check by the Government against them, State/UT-wise;
(c) whether the Government has taken note that due to nexus between Public Sector Oil Companies and the owners of petrol pumps, customers are getting less fuel;
(d) if so, the details thereof along with the action taken/proposed to be taken to break such nexus and provide correct measurement of fuel to the customers in the country, State/UT/Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs)-wise;
(e) the number of complaints / representation received by the Government regarding less supply or adulterated supply of fuels from various petrol pumps across the country during the last three years and the current year, State/UT/OMCs-wise; and
(f) the corrective action taken/being taken by the Government on such complaints/representations?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM & NATURAL GAS (SHRI DHARMENDRA PRADHAN)
(a): The State/UT-wise details of theft of petrol/diesel using electronic chips/hi-tech way of cheating at the retail outlets of Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) namely; Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL), Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL) and Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL) during the last two years and current years (April − June, 2017) are annexed as Annexure − I.
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(b) to (d): The Ministry has been monitoring the joint operation across the country. The OMCs have been instructed to take strict action against the Retail Outlets, resorting to such malpractices including exploring the option of terminating the contract. The joint inspection teams comprising of the Officers of State Government and OMCs have conducted raids/surprise inspections on petrol pumps in Uttar Pradesh and Maharashtra since 27th April, 2017 onwards. Detail of such inspections till 10th July, 2017 are annexed as Annexure-II. Actions have been initiated in all cases involving malpractices as per the provision of agreement. So far OMCs have terminated 44 retail outlets.
As regards nexus between OMC field officers and dealers of petrol pumps, OMCs have informed that so far it has not been brought to their notice by any investigative agency namely UP Police STF& Crime branch Maharashtra . OMCs have referred this issue to their vigilance department who are currently investigating this aspect as well. Pending enquiry, OMCs have also transferred some field officers and put them on special duty. On completion of enquiry, further action will be initiated. Besides the same, OMCs have appointed internal committee to look at systemic issues and also look at adequacy and effectiveness of standard operating practices (SOPs).
(e) : All the complaints including less supply or adulterated supply of fuels by retail outlets received in the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas regarding are forwarded to OMCs for taking action in the matter. State/UT/OMC-wise details of such complaints received by OMCs during the last three years and current year (April-June, 2017) are annexed as Annexure-III.
(f) : OMCs have reported that for minor complaints other than the ones covered under Marketing Discipline Guidelines (MDG), the dealers have been suitably counseled. For complaints covered under the MDG, the action of suspension of sales and supplies, imposing punitive action etc. has been taking by the OMCs wherever warranted.
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